

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Doug Underwood, owner  
and publisher of The Westview.

WHEREAS, it was with great sorrow and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly learned of the passing of our valued friend and colleague, Doug Underwood; and

WHEREAS, considered by many of his friends and neighbors to be “the founder of Bellevue”, Doug Underwood played an important role in organizing and outlining Bellevue’s future and, working assiduously with political authorities, to ensure the community’s proper growth; and

WHEREAS, Doug Underwood was truly a man of substance who had earned the wide respect and admiration of state and local government officials, business people, civic leaders, and his neighbors in the Bellevue community; and

WHEREAS, he was also a public servant of exceptional vision and purpose, and he was vitally involved in numerous public projects to benefit the Bellevue community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Underwood led the fight to amend the Metro Charter to provide for a popularly elected school board; and

WHEREAS, since 1978, Mr. Underwood had lived every newspaperman’s dream of owning and publishing his own newspaper, The Westview; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Morgan Prep School, Mr. Underwood joined the United States Navy at the age of 17, and served his country meritoriously until his discharge in 1948; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, he married Evelyn O’Guin, an art student from Waverly studying in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, Doug Underwood began his illustrious career in the news media as a darkroom technician with the Nashville Banner in 1948, but was quickly promoted to news photographer; and

WHEREAS, he then served with acumen and industry as the sports editor of the Columbia Daily Herald from 1952-1958; and

WHEREAS, when television first became a major force in the Nashville media market, Mr. Underwood decided to explore his professional opportunities in this new and exciting field; he moved back to Nashville to work for WLAC-TV, where he was employed until 1961; and

WHEREAS, he was also a highly capable and conscientious reporter and news editor for WSM-TV from 1961-1969; and

WHEREAS, during the 1969-1970 election campaign, Doug Underwood worked for Bill Brock as his press aide, and played an important role in helping Senator Brock claim the U.S. Senatorial seat from Albert Gore, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, after the election, Doug Underwood had no desire to move his family to Washington, so he went to work for Governor Winfield Dunn as his assistant press secretary from 1970-74, turning in his usual brilliant performance in this important position; and

WHEREAS, after working briefly in the public relations field, Mr. Underwood decided what he really wanted to do was start his own community newspaper in the Bellevue area where he and his family had lived since 1963; and

WHEREAS, on September 14, 1978, the first issue of The Westview was published; the weekly newspaper is now a paid subscription periodical covering the news of Bellevue, Hillwood, Westmeade, Pegram and Kingston Springs; and

WHEREAS, as editor of The Westview, he penned his "My Way" editorial column, which usually elicited an outpouring of public response regardless of the topic; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Underwood was a true conservative, and whether one agreed with him or not, there was no mistaking his opinion on any given issue; and

WHEREAS, he was truly an outstanding journalist who held deep convictions, and had the courage to express those convictions through his column; and

WHEREAS, his journalistic integrity was above reproach, and was a real credit to his profession; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Underwood won many awards from the Tennessee Press Association, including the Meeman Foundation Award in 1990 and 1991 for Best Editorials and the Simonton Award in 1990 for Best Single Editorial; and

WHEREAS, a gentleman who always considered public service to be a privilege rather than a duty, Doug Underwood founded the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and was a founder of the Bank of Bellevue which he also served as a member of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, for his meritorious community service, he was named Citizen of the Year by the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce and received the Nashville Civitan Club's Arthur Crownover Award for 1979-80; he also received a Service Award from the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce for founding that worthy organization; and

WHEREAS, a public spirited citizen of the first order, Doug Underwood received the Service to Mankind Award from the Sertoma Club in 1987; he was one of the founding members of the Loyal Royal Order of Hooligans and a member of the Masons and the Moose Lodge; and

WHEREAS, he and his family expressed their robust belief in the Lord through their active membership at Harpeth Heights Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, an avid history buff, Mr. Underwood had recently drafted and published A History of Bellevue and Surrounding Areas in a limited edition; this exhaustively researched book is a brilliantly written history of the area he loved and contains many historical and recent photographs; and

WHEREAS, this exceptional gentleman is survived by his wife, Evelyn, and their two daughters, Sydney Rogers, the Dean of Technologies at Nashville State Technical Institute and Paula Winters, editor of The Westview; and

WHEREAS, Doug Underwood was a tireless advocate for those improvements he believed would enrich the Bellevue community and a tough and unrelenting opponent of those he felt did not have his community's best interests at heart; and

WHEREAS, there can be no doubt that his talent, resolve and journalistic integrity are responsible for many of Bellevue's best features today; and

WHEREAS, Doug Underwood's life was one of virtue and purpose; he will be sorely missed; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby pause to honor the memory of Doug Underwood, reflecting fondly upon his legacy of sterling public service to the Bellevue community, his unparalleled excellence as a journalist, and his unflagging commitment to leading the examined life with courage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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